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Debate Team Wins Sweepstakes at NPDA Tournament

CEDARVILLE, OHIO – The Cedarville University debate team competed in a National Parliamentary Debate Association (NPDA) competition and won the Sweepstakes and Novice divisions. The event was held at Wheaton College Sept. 23–24.

Leading the victorious effort were a pair of freshmen--Jeremiah Edwards and Caleb Jackson.

Edwards, who is majoring in mechanical engineering, and Jackson, a political science major, won first place in the novice division. Junior Brandon Best, an English major, and sophomore Colby Johnson, majoring in economics, were semifinalists in the open debate category. Rebecca Murch, a freshman industrial design major, and Nathan Jessurun, a sophomore computer engineering major, were semifinalists in the novice division.

“Our debate team is one of the best because we focus on building debaters with character, not just debaters who can win,” said Aaron Alford, one of the team’s coaches and a 2016 graduate. “Our success is based on the debaters themselves, not the rankings.”

The debate team has ranked in the top 25 nationally the past three years and finished second in the nation for the 2013-14 season.

Alford said the debate process has a positive effect on students’ academic performance and their ability to succeed professionally.

“When students learn to do their own research and formulate creative arguments, they are gaining learning skills that they can employ in any vocation,” Alford explained.

Located in southwest Ohio, Cedarville University is an accredited, Christ-centered, Baptist institution with an enrollment of 3,760 undergraduate, graduate, and online students in more than 100 areas of study. Founded in 1887, Cedarville is recognized nationally for its authentic Christian community, rigorous academic programs, strong graduation and retention rates, accredited professional and health science offerings, and leading student satisfaction ratings. For more information about the University, visit www.cedarville.edu.